



**North American
Meat Association**
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N A M A

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November 30, 2012

Tricia Van Orden,
Executive Secretary,
President's Export Council,
Room 4043,
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW.,
Washington, DC 20230

RE: President's Export Council: Meeting of the
President's Export Council
Federal Register, Tuesday, November 20, 2012
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On behalf of the members of the North American Meat Association (NAMA), we respectfully submit the following comments in response to the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration's, "President's Export Council: Meeting of the President's Export Council."

Organized in 1942, NAMA represents the interests of meat packers and processors throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. With nearly 400 meat processing members, NAMA has a vested interest in this *Federal Register* Notice.

NAMA appreciates this opportunity to provide our comments on the streamlined consideration of trade legislation, known as Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). TPA has been important in the negotiation of international trade agreements. It provided the President the ability to negotiate trade agreements based on strategic goals and objectives outlined in legislation with subsequent Congressional oversight to approve or disapprove of all U.S. trade agreements as presented to them.

TPA has worked efficiently in the past, as U.S. trade partners understood that the U.S. Congress was monitoring trade negotiations on the basis of the goals established in the TPA. In addition, U.S. trade partners had the assurance that deals that were reached with U.S. negotiators would not be subjected to amendments by the U.S. Congress. Therefore, U.S. trade partners knew that they could put forth their best offer without fear that the U.S. Congress would make further demands.

The most recent TPA expired in 2007. Since the TPA expired, the U.S. has only entered into one new trade negotiation, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), while U.S. competitors have entered into hundreds of regional and bilateral deals. Such deals have placed U.S. exporters at a disadvantage compared to their competitors in the markets of the participating countries. This has led to higher tariffs and non-tariff barriers on U.S. products. Further, the TPP will require passage of a new TPA legislation in order to ensure its final approval.

In order to reassert U.S. leadership in international trade negotiations, the U.S. will need to enact new TPA legislation. NAMA strongly supports such legislation and urges that it encompass the TPP, as well as a possible U.S.-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and all other trade agreements that may be negotiated over the life of the legislation.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment.

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